

Chairman Bentz, and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for holding this hearing. The overpopulation of wolves in Minnesota is having devastating effects.

US Fish and Wildlife has determined the adequate numbers for a healthy wolf population to be 1,251 to 1,400. Currently the DNR count is estimated to be 2,700. Roughly double. People living in Northern Minnesota believe this count to be significantly higher.

Livestock producers have been dealing with these predators for years. As they have continued to increase in numbers the devastation has spread. The deer population is diminished. And as these and other prey decrease, domestic pets are now the targeted food source for these predators.

The circumstances that existed when wolves were listed as endangered are no longer relevant. The claims that managing wolves will decimate their numbers are not supported by the facts. We need only look to states that have management plans to validate this.

The other argument that Indigenous people are all against wolf management is false. I am a member of the White Earth Nation. I have lived on the reservation most of my life. There are some that oppose delisting. But those that rely on deer and other game as a source food do not. They are my family, friends, and neighbors. Their voices are seldom heard. However, if you take the time get to know them, they will tell you they are concerned when deer populations are low.

If the Fish and Wildlife agency will not act, we are hoping the Legislature will act. There is more at stake than the ones already stated. We have all heard reports of wolves in yards killing pets. How long before it is a child? Reaction to that will be too late. We already see wolves no longer fear man. We have an opportunity to be proactive. Every day we wait increases the danger. School will soon be out; kids and adults will be out more. We must act.

I am asking the committee to bring these concerns to DC. This should not be a complicated issue. Delisting the wolf will bring many benefits, and few if any negative ones.

Thank you for allowing me to voice these concerns.

Sincerely,

Steve Green